

117-138 AD

HADRIAN

A Spanish Kennsmian of TRAJAN, succeeded him (117-138 AD). He was a wise and prudent man, and his rule was one of general reorganization. He reformed the army and strengthened its discipline, and at the same time he looked to the fortification of the exposed frontiers. His most famous work of this kind was the wall (HADRIAN'S WALL) in Britain, from the Solway to the Tyne, to replace the less satisfactory wall of Agricola, further to the north. Wisely and courageously, he abandoned most of TRAJAN'S conquests in Asia (disregarding the sneers and murmurs of nobles and populace), and withdrew the frontier there to the old

line of the Euphrates. Hadrian spent most of his twenty  
years in inspecting the provinces. Now he is in Britain, now Dacia  
etc. He visited Athens, his favorite city, which he adorned with  
splendid buildings. Built baths, aqueducts, schools etc. Hadrian organized  
the civil service of the empire - the whole body of officers who  
carried on the administration. Hadrian brought nobles and  
"knights" into public service, and built up a body of trained  
public servants, who thereafter continued from reign to  
reign, with definite customs & ideals of government. In  
particular, Hadrian brought together the heads of important  
administrative divisions into a true Privy Council to advise  
and inform the Emperor.